

-6-

REMARKS

Claims 16, 18, 36, 40, 59, 60 and 67 were objected to and require correction, and claims 15-22, 24-29, 34-53, 55-65 and 67-69 were rejected in an Office Action dated March 21, 2007.

Claims 1-15, 23, 30-33, 54 and 55-69 were cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein, and claims 17, 36, 40 and 43-45 have been amended. Support for the amendments may be found in the "Detailed Description of the Invention." Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the following remarks.

I. Claim Objections

Applicants respectfully submit that the cancellation of or amendments to the claims overcome the objections set forth in the Office Action. Accordingly, applicants submit that these objections are rendered moot.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 43-45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to the claims render moot this §112 rejection.

III. The Claims are Not Anticipated by the Prior Art

Claims 15-20, 24-25, 29, 34-35 and 41-46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Sakhpara (EP 0 410 292). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Specifically, with respect to pending claims applicants respectfully submit that 17, 19-20, 24-25, 29, 34-35 and 41-46, applicants respectfully submit that the present claims, as amended, are not anticipated by the teachings of Sakhpara. Particularly, Sakhpara ('292) does not achieve the novel claimed combination of features. Sakhpara ('292) also does not disclose a textile layer being made up from yarns comprising at least a first component and a second component, the first component being stable to a first temperature and the second component melting at a second temperature, wherein the first temperature is higher than the second temperature. Further, in Sakhpara ('292) the adhesive in each laminate melts and flows inwardly through the textile material of each layer until the re-meltable adhesive from the laminates meet and

-7-

bond. The adhesive is applied in a discontinuous fashion or dot pattern (col. 3, l. 57 – col. 4 – l. 21). That means that the adhesive penetration is limited within the textile at certain parts and not everywhere. This selective penetration does not allow for the production of strong seams. As well, the adhesive can only penetrate thin textile materials completely and encapsulate these (col. 3, l. 40 – 55). When thick textile materials are used, there is only a partial penetration and as a result the seams produced have poor strength, as well as a possible lack of waterproofness.

Accordingly, applicants submit that the pending claims are not anticipated by the teachings of Sakhpara.

IV. The Claims Are Neither Disclosed Nor Suggested by the Cited

References

Claims 17, 21-22, 26-29, 36-42, 48-53, 55-56 and 58-65 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Goodwin (WO 99/16620) in view of Sakhpara (EP 0410 292). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

With respect to claims 17, 21-22, 26-29, 36-42, 48-53, 55-56 and 58-65, applicants submit that these claims are neither disclosed nor suggested by the teachings of Goodwin or Sakhpara, whether taken alone or in combination. Particularly, Goodwin does not disclose or suggest an edge-to-edge butted orientation for a seam. Moreover, applicants refer to the limitations noted above with respect to Sakhpara.

Accordingly, applicants submit that the pending claims are not anticipated by the teachings of Goodwin or Sakhpara, whether taken alone or in combination.

-8-

IV. Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, the present invention as defined by claims 17, 19-22, 24-29 and 34-54, is neither taught nor suggested by any of the references of record. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that these claims are now in form for allowance. If further questions remain, applicants request that the Examiner telephone applicants' undersigned representative before issuing a further Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,

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